

Public Comments
Boston Harbor Islands Complex
Resource Management Plan (RMP) Public Meeting
December 9, 2014

DCR Staff Present

Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks; Andy Backman, Director of Regional Planning; Jim Baecker, Harbor Islands Complex RMP Project Manager; Mary McCarthy, Deputy Director of Government Affairs; and Anne Fiesinger, Director of Public Outreach.

Public Attendees

Sean Pierce, Senator Forry's Office; Phil Griffiths, President, Boston Harbor Island Alliance; Giles Parker, Superintendent, Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area; Marc Albert, National Park Service Ecologist; Lisa Engler, Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Note: The following summary does not serve as a verbatim transcript of the December 9 public meeting. This summary highlights comments received and issues that were raised and replies provided during the Question-and-Answer segment of the meeting. Questions were answered by Andy Backman and Jim Baecker.

Question: What is the anticipated time period for implementation of the RMP recommendations?
DCR: The RMP will make recommendations for actions over the next decade. They will be assigned a priority (High, Medium or Low) to indicate the urgency of each recommendation and assessed relative to availability of resources to implement the recommendation.

Comment: The Island Partnership has a target to double island visitation over the next five years. The RMP should identify DCR capital projects and staffing that would be required to achieve this goal. The RMP should consider reopening Gallops, Calf, and Great Brewster Islands. DCR should provide a variety of experiences on different islands.

Comment: The RMP should examine the carrying capacity of each island; provide a flexible framework for protection of ecosystems and natural processes; recommend control of invasive species to protect rare and native species; recommend public programming to promote awareness and volunteer support of island conservation measures; support ecosystem monitoring; and identify opportunities for community-based maintenance partnerships and volunteer projects.

Comment: The islands should be promoted as a venue for scientific research and environmental education. The RMP should describe the revitalization of Boston Harbor and the aquatic context of the islands.

Comment: The National Park Service can provide information about national initiatives that can support work on the Harbor Islands (e.g., Great Outdoors Initiative).